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Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

THE DENVER POST

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DENVER PARAMEDICS

New game plan for traffic

Traffic builds up on Interstate 25 near the Alameda Avenue exit in Denver on Thursday. With the congestion expected to get worse, the city's paramedics are looking at ways to get personnel where they are needed. *John Leyba, The Denver Post*

Gridlocked city presents increasing challenges for those trying to save lives

By John Ingold
The Denver Post

In the new administrative offices of the Denver Health Paramedic Division at Sixth Avenue and Broadway, a bank of televisions hangs above a U-shaped pod of desks.

One screen displays the calls ambulances are currently on; a second lists hospitals and the number of beds they have available. Justin Kennedy, a captain with the division and a 10-year veteran, gestures toward a third screen — one mapping traffic patterns throughout the city.

At midday, it shows mostly open routes. But in just a few hours, the streets on the map will turn red with backups. And that's when the city's paramedics will begin an increasingly complicated race: They will try to save lives while also navigating a gridlocked city.

"The frustration they see is more calls and more cars on the road," Kennedy said later. "Some of their best routes are getting clogged."

For Denver's paramedics, congestion has emerged as one of their greatest enemies.

TRAFFIC »8A

Denver Health Paramedics respond to a call Thursday in Denver. *RJ Sangosti, The Denver Post*

TWO MAJOR SETBACKS

GOP rushes to save tax bill

By Erica Werner, Mike DeBonis and Damian Paletta
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON» A fast-moving Senate Republican effort to overhaul the tax code unexpectedly stalled Thursday evening over concerns about the federal deficit, leaving the GOP without a clear plan to pass the legislation.

Senate leadership, who had hoped to vote to pass the $1.5 trillion tax bill by late Thursday, instead sent lawmakers home and began to search for a new way to offset the cost of the legislation. They are looking to win the support of several senators, including Bob Corker, R-Tenn., who has led a small group of colleagues in demanding that the bill not drive up the nation's debt.

Now Republican leaders may have to brace for an intraparty battle over how far to go to accommodate deficit concerns.

TAX BILL »9A

SECRETARY OF STATE

Ousting Tillerson considered

By Josh Lederman and Jill Colvin
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON» After months of clashes on policy and personality, President Donald Trump is considering ousting Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and replacing him with hard-nosed CIA Director Mike Pompeo after less than a year on the job, senior U.S. officials said Thursday as turmoil within Trump's national security team burst into the open.

The White House plan, which Trump has not yet signed off on, would force a major realignment early in his term, also creating a vacancy atop the CIA that officials said could be filled by Re-

TILLERSON »16A

IN-N-OUT BURGER COMING TO COLORADO

Double-double down on its arrival

By Danika Worthington and Allyson Reedy
The Denver Post

West Coast favorite In-N-Out Burger is coming to Colorado. Finally.

Fans celebrated the announcement Thursday, anticipated for decades, that the California-based restaurant chain plans to open locations along the Front Range, starting with a distribution center and a restaurant in north Colorado Springs. A date has not been set.

Just as quickly, others wondered aloud when their own favorite retail chains would come to Colorado. Whataburger or White Castle, anyone? And what about Portillo's, Publix Super Markets and Aldi?

Colorado has long craved the popular restaurants, retail outlets and airlines that other regions enjoy — often with cultish fervor — but that are slow to arrive here. In-N-Out's announcement raises the question: What more can the Front Range ask for in terms of desirable consumer-oriented businesses?

Trader Joe's opened its first

BURGER »13A

BUSINESS

24,000 NOW JUST A NUMBER TO DOW JONES

The Dow Jones industrial average smashes the 24,000 mark — and then some — as an abundance of news from Capitol Hill, world economies and the U.S. economy sends indexes to rousing heights. The S&P's 500-stock index has its best month since February. »11A

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